

**Friday 28th February 2020**

**Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Friends**

It was lovely to welcome everybody back to school on Monday and what an exciting week we have had...

Year 4 children have recently written letters and sent audio transcripts to our local MP, Janet Daby (Lewisham East) about the climate crisis. The children had included issues that they felt needed more attention in the borough and also ideas and solutions for making it a greener and environmentally safe place to live. Janet mentioned Brindishe Manor and the children from year 4 on Wednesday in her speech on the Environment Bill in the House of Commons. We are in the process of putting the video of the speech on our website, which will be available over the weekend. I informed the children on Thursday and they were just thrilled to know that their letters had made an impact, been read and were helping towards such a huge cause. Well done to all of the children in Year 4 for sharing your understanding and passion.

On Monday, Year 2 visited the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, to learn more about African culture, history and artifacts. The children really enjoyed the day and have been using what they learnt to support their further learning about this wonderful continent. I know many parents and carers have also been visiting year 2 to talk about their experiences in Africa.

This week we also welcomed the children's authors from Moon Lane Book Shop. The author Tamara McFarlane talked to children from Y2 to Y6 about being an author and about her books. She was accompanied by Gilbert Giggles who got all of Reception and Year 1 on their feet taking part in their workshop about dinosaurs.

Miss Hockham took 10 children to the Council Chamber at the Catford Civic Suite today to meet the Lewisham Young Mayor Team. The children asked questions to do with climate change and how this is affecting them and addressed the housing shortage across the borough!

## **Dina Asher-Smith** **visiting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** **Sports relief week**

I am very very excited to announce that the World Champion Athlete, Dina Asher-Smith will be visiting Brindishe Manor on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March to talk to the children about her athletics success and how being resilient has helped her succeed.

Dina Asher-Smith is currently the fastest British woman in history. She currently holds British records in the 100m (10.83 secs), 200m (21.88 secs) and 4x100m (41.77 secs)



She started running in primary school and joined Blackheath and Bromley Harriers AC in their children's academy. She has managed to continue to maintain her sporting career whilst studying for a history degree at Kings College. We are really looking forward to welcoming her to Brindishe Manor and hearing all about her journey to the Olympics.

## Coronavirus

We recognise there is public anxiety around reported cases of Coronavirus in the UK and locally. Advice from Public Health England about the countries and areas with implications for returning travellers or visitors arriving in the UK can be found on this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

If you become concerned or have any questions please contact the school office or speak to Clare Doran (AWSO).



## Message from the PSFA

After weeks of training, 43 members of the Brindishe Manor community will be running the Vitality Big Half <https://www.thebighalf.co.uk/> on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

We need your help in one of the following ways:

- 1) **Are you a keen runner?** Would you like to join the running team? 2 places have become available so if you are interested please let the school office know
- 2) **Sponsorship:** all 43 runners are raising money to support the development of the outdoor spaces at Brindishe Manor. If you are able to, a small donation would be gratefully received: <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/BrindisheManor/>  
Last year we were able to secure match-funding from a company. If you know anyone who may be able to do this, please do let the office know
- 3) **Support on the day:** the runners will all be wearing Brindishe Manor t-shirts and would love to hear a clap or cheer to keep them going. For more information, please click on the following: <https://www.thebighalf.co.uk/event-info/spectator-info/>



### Attendance of the week...

Key Stage 1 – Ruby 99%  
Key Stage 2 - Opal 97%



### Calling all creative writers in Y4 and 6

Our Creative Writing Club takes place on Fridays after school from 3.15 – 4.15 pm and we have some spaces for next half term. If your child would like to join, please let the office know. The first session will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Year 1 choir** will be starting again after half term on Thursdays from 3.15 – 4 pm. If your child was already a member, they will still have a place. If your child would like to join, please let the office know and they will let you know if there are any available spaces. The first session will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.



Rights Respecting at Brindishe Manor. Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)  
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

This week, the Rights Respecting Team ran an assembly that introduced the new Playground Charter to the children. They asked them what would make a good playtime and linked it with articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child.



### **Dates for your diary**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> March** – school journey, Isle of Wight

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March** – Sports relief week

Please be reminded that the Government announced last year that the early **May bank holiday** would this year be moved from Monday **May 4<sup>th</sup>** to **Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>**, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

**The 2020-2021 term dates are available on our website.**

Enjoy the weekend!

Kate Porter  
Headteacher

**Nursery** - Welcome back after the Half Term. We have all been very excited to continue our activities in class. We have been focusing on the number 3 and building a new small world setting to tell the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. We took turns to act out the story, changed our voices and thought of the actions to match the words. On Tuesday we made pancakes. All the children were able to add ingredients, mix the batter and flip their own pancakes. We had it with lemon and sugar. We talked about how the mixture changes when heat is added. You can talk to your child about how heat changes things like bread (toast), chocolate (melting), water (ice) and raw eggs (boiled, cooked or fried). We also recapped the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n. From next week, we will start to look at how we can combine some of these sounds to make sensible words. We had a chance to talk to the children about how to use tissues appropriately when sneezing, using their hands in front of their mouth when coughing and washing their hands with soap and water afterwards. (Catch it, bin it, kill it)

**Reception** - We had a fantastic dinosaur adventure with Gilbert and Tamara from Moon Lane Books. They really made *Dylan's Amazing Dinosaurs* come alive for us and we were all very inspired by the session.

We really enjoyed writing our own dinosaur sound poem with Year 1:

#### **Dinosaur Roar**

Dinosaur roar  
Dinosaur growl  
Dinosaur chomp  
Dinosaur hoot

Dinosaur stomp  
Dinosaur BASH!

Dinosaur scratch  
Dinosaur rustle

Dinosaur swish  
Dinosaur THWACK!  
Dinosaur slam  
Dinosaur crash

Dinosaur snore zzzzzzzz

Thank you so much to Alex from Emerald's daddy who came in to be our first Secret Reader on Wednesday. Don't forget to sign up at the office (but remember, shhhh - it's a secret, so please don't tell your child!)

We've been thinking about recycling and sustainability and have begun making our own recycled paper as part of the school Earth Fest project. In phonics, we have been learning new digraphs *ai* and *ee* and practising segmenting words for spelling using our sound-talk. In maths, we have been comparing numbers to 10 and using the mathematical language *more than*, *fewer than* and *the same as*.

**Year 1** have enjoyed a very artistic week! Jasper class has been delving into the world of woodwork, creating beautiful pieces of art using wood and string. Onyx class has started a unit 'The Artist In Me' and have enjoyed an in-depth artist study of Vincent Van Gogh. This week we focused on his many paintings of flowers and tried sketching some still-life flowers ourselves!

In maths, Year One has continued to explore place value, using base ten to partition numbers into tens and ones. In science we will begin exploring the world of plants in the coming weeks - just in time to watch the bulbs spring up in the gardens!

**Year 2** started the new term with an exciting trip to the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Despite the unpleasant weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed the day exploring the different galleries and taking part in the African workshop. Thank you so much to the parents/carers who helped us on the day. We have started learning about the Great Fire of London. This week in history we looked at what London in the 17th century was like and found ways in which it has changed.

For home learning, we would like the children to prepare a leaflet/poster/presentation on one of the London's landmarks, i.e. St.Paul's Cathedral or London Eye.

**Year 3** - This week in Pearl class we have been exploring the features of a biography; we read Roald Dahl's biography to help us create our own checklist. We also came up with a bank of questions which we thought would gather the most information from a person about their life. Sapphire class have been learning about the features of a diary entry as we will be writing our own diary entries about Howard Carter's great discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb.

In science we have started our new topic 'Animals, including humans'. As part of this topic we will be learning about a balanced diet and the benefits of exercise. Next week we will be taking part in the daily mile 3 days a week, each morning we will run/jog/walk for 15 minutes per day and observe whether this improves our concentration and fitness. This will last for 5 weeks so we can conduct an observation over time. In maths we have been solving word problems by applying our understanding of a written division method.

**Year 4** have some exciting news! Before half-term, Amber class and Topaz class wrote persuasive speeches and letters to our local MP Janet Daby. This week Janet herself has called Miss Porter to tell us that she used our speeches and letters when she brought up the issue of climate change at the Houses of Parliament this week. She was so impressed with the children's knowledge and passion for the subject and she agreed that she and the government needed to do more to tackle global warming. She even sent us a video of her talking about the letters and speeches during her talk in parliament and we hope you will see this as well.

Amber class have begun writing their own narratives based on our class novel 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson, whilst Topaz class have been writing biographies of William Kamwamba. In

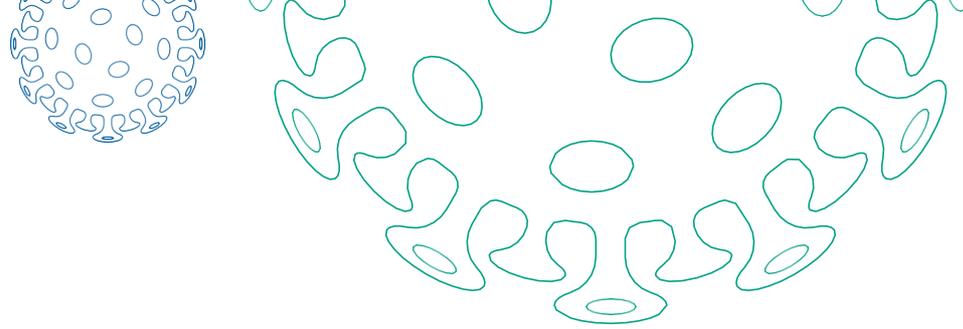
science, both classes have been investigating which objects and materials work to light up an electrical circuit and why. The children have also begun to think about stop-frame animation and we hope our learning about this will also form part of the whole-school Art exhibition in March.

**Year 5** - This half term, Year 5 are continuing to learn about Ancient Greece. This week, we've started our own Trojan horse sculpture as part of the whole school art exhibition which will take place in March. If you have any old plastic at home (bottle lids, small, old toys etc) that you could bring in, it would be greatly appreciated.

In maths, we have begun to learn about ratio. As this is a new mathematical concept for a lot of us, we've spent time identifying ratios in everyday problems, as well as using simplifying ratios to solve word problems. Ask your child if they can identify any examples of ratios being used in news stories, when adapting recipes or examples of offers when shopping. In English, the children have published their own information leaflets about the Greek mythical creatures they've created and have spent time researching information on Greek mythology to create their own myth, where this character will appear. At home, you and your child could look at examples of Greek myths that involve heroes such as "Jason and the Golden Fleece", "The Twelve Labours of Heracles" or "Perseus and the Gorgon's Head".

**Year 6** have written their own short stories this week, focusing on building tension and including a twist. 'I Used to Live Here Once' by Jean Rhys - a story set in Dominica in the Caribbean - was our starting point. We explored what made this story so effective; children thought about the use of tension and how this was subtly used throughout, building to a climatic cliffhanger at the end. We have been really impressed with the children's use of the past perfect tense along with them ensuring they have included a sense of familiarity of the setting. Although their stories have aspects of this, they also included a sense of unease which added to the tension. They came up with wonderful ideas which made them very interesting to read. Please ask your child what their story is about.

Children going on School Journey next week need to bring their luggage and any medication to Central Hall on Monday morning.



# Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

## How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

## How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

## How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

### If you need to cough or sneeze

**Catch it**  
with a tissue

**Bin it**

**Kill it**  
by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

### You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

**After breaks**  
sport activities

**Before cooking & eating**

**On arrival at any childcare or educational setting**

**After using the toilet**

**Before & leaving home**



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: [campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools)

## What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.



**If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately**